



SEQUOIA NEEDLES

*Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society, San Mateo County
Founded 1949*

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SPOTLIGHT: JOHN AND NENA PADLEY, SAS MEMBERS SINCE 1983

BY SUE COSSINS

Many of us are lucky to have known the Padleys during their long association with the Sequoia Audubon Society. Over the years they have cheerfully agreed to help with a number of SAS projects -- from mailing newsletters to leading field trips.

John was born in England and Nena in Scotland. They came to the US in 1954 with their two daughters. Their teenage son, John Jr., decided to remain in England with relatives. John had an interest in aviation since serving in the Royal Air Force from 1937 to 1946 and after the war ended he took a job with an aeronautical firm in England. When John's company, which made turboprop and jet engines, began selling them in the US there was a need for a local service engineer and John volunteered for the assignment. As time went on, the company bought an American engine company and asked the employees to either join that company or return to the UK. Since John and Nena enjoyed their jobs here they decided to stay. In the UK, Nena had been a nurse and midwife. In San Mateo Nena managed the knitting department and taught knitting at Chandler's Warp and Woof, a fabric and needlework store.

In 1983 the company was cutting back and offered John a retirement in the UK. However they were enjoying their life in San Mateo and decided to retire here. One of their favorite past times was sailing their sailboat, the Seastar, in the bay and delta.

John also became interested in the new Hiller Museum of Aviation in San Carlos

and was able to arrange for his company to donate a Merlin Engine. He had planned to become a docent at the museum. But from Nena's days of being a Girl Scout leader she had developed a love of nature. She decided that they needed to find volunteer activities that they could do together. "Nena won out," says John and they became docents for the State Parks at Angel Island. They had decided on Angel Island after having spent many weekends there in their sailboat and had gotten to know the rangers and people who taught the docent program. They led nature walks there for about a year and at the same time became interested in birds and joined SAS. At their third meeting they met two state park rangers, Dave Augustine and Dave Horvitz, who were looking for docents at Pescadero Marsh. They decided to give that a try. Thus began their 23 year (1985-2008) association of volunteering on the coast, first at Pescadero, then Ano Nuevo and finally at Half Moon Bay State Beach.

Now begins their second retirement. We wish you well, John and Nena, and hope to see you at many more Audubon events. What a pleasure it's been to know you!

The April/May issue of the Needles will feature a continuation of the Padley story with an article written by Jake Hill of Nottingham, England, the Padley's 13 year old great-grandson. Jake is an enthusiastic birder and photographer (see Black-crowned Night Heron photo on page 3) and writes a monthly column for the "Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers eNewsletter".



John and Nena Padley

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center
(See program details on page 2)

February

Thursday, 12th, 7:00 PM
Program: Feathers: Form, Function, Flight!

March

Thursday, 12th, 7:00 PM
Program: Birding South Africa

April

Thursday, 9th, 7:00 PM
Program: Lives of Shorebirds

Upcoming Field Trips

(See trip details starting on page 3)

February

Sunday, 1st	Pescadero Marsh*
Saturday, 7th	Pillar Point
Sunday, 8th	Bean Hollow
Friday, 13th	Hayward Shoreline
Saturday, 14th	Birding Class Field Trip
Sunday, 15th	Pescadero Marsh*
Saturday, 21st	Gulls & Landfills
Sunday, 22nd	Edgewood Park
Saturday, 28th	Charleston Slough*

March

Sunday, 1st	Pescadero Marsh*
Saturday, 7th	San Gregorio
Sunday, 15th	Pescadero Marsh*
Sunday, 22nd	San Bruno Mt.*
Saturday, 28th	Sam Trans Marsh
Sunday, 29th	Edgewood Park

(Continued on page 3)

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MEETING PROGRAMS

BY PAULA MILLER &
SUE COSSINS

Birding Class: Feathers: Form, Function, Flight!

By Stephanie Ellis

Thursday, February 12, 7:00 PM

Join Stephanie Ellis to learn about these fabulous structures found only in birds. Feathers are remarkable – lightweight yet sturdy enough to sustain flight. We will discuss the various feather types, tracts, structure, growth, pigmentation, and more. Learn why feathers are valuable for thermoregulation and even courtship. Most importantly, feathers make flight possible. We will discuss how feathers are specifically designed to aid flight patterns and the mechanics of flight. This presentation is packed with information and fascinating feather facts.

Our birding instructor, Stephanie Ellis, is the Outreach and Programs Coordinator for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. In this role she coordinates events and compiles and edits publications. Stephanie graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Boston with a B.A. in Psychology and BioBehavior with a focus in Ornithology.

Accompanying Field Trip: Saturday, February 14. Field trip TBD, dependent on recent bird sightings.

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center

605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

Parkside Way is west of Alameda de las Pulgas, between 26th and 28th Avenues.

Birding South Africa

By Leslie Flint

Thursday, March 12, 7:00PM

In September, 2008 Leslie and five friends took a birding tour of South Africa. It was billed as a “mega endemics trip” and mega it was! They drove 11,000 km in one month and saw virtually the entire country. The starting point was Johannesburg and from there they drove south through the grasslands looking for larks and bustards,

but were also treated to spectacular wildflower displays. A pelagic trip from Capetown turned up thousands of seabirds following a fishing trawler – the highlight being five species of albatross. A tour of the Betty’s Bay area of the Cape brought them in close contact with a colony of South African Penguins. The unique flora of the Cape – fynbos (small leaves) and protea (in bloom) support two families of unusual birds – sugarbirds and rockjumpers. From Capetown they flew to Durban and covered most of the northern part of the country – the Drakensburg Mountains, the kingdom of Lesotho, St. Lucia Wetland Park, Mkuze Game Reserve, Wakkerstrom, and Kruger National Park, where they spent three days.

Leslie is an active SAS member. Many of you may know her from attending one of her field trips or joining the Christmas Bird Count, which she coordinates. She also continues on the Board of Directors and volunteers as a weekend guide at Audubon Canyon Ranch. And she’s just completed her 20th season as a hawk-watcher with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory.

Birding Class: A Peep into the Lives of Shorebirds

By Stephanie Ellis

Thursday, April 9, 7:00PM-9:00PM

Why is San Francisco Bay so important for shorebirds? What influences breeding, molt, and migration? We will take a “peep” into the lives of a few of the resident and migratory species of the San Francisco Bay. The field trip will focus on shorebird identification, paying special attention to the small, similar-looking shorebirds commonly referred to as “peeps”.

Accompanying Field Trip: Saturday, April 11. Field Trip TBD, dependent on recent bird sightings.

The field trip will be led by Gina Barton and Stephanie Ellis. Stephanie is the Outreach and Programs Coordinator for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. Gina Barton is the Landbird Program Supervisor for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. She has been studying birds since 2000 and manages the SFBBO Coyote Creek Bird Banding Field Station.



FIELD TRIPS

BY CAROL MASTERSON

Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walk

Sunday, February 1, 10:00 AM – Noon
**** (Repeated on the first Sunday of every month: March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd, etc.)****

Come and discover Pescadero Marsh. This beautiful park has a mile-long shoreline, rocky cliffs, and, of course, a world-famous marsh. The birding at the Marsh is great at this time of year. The docents will point out the plants and animals that inhabit this San Mateo County treasure. If it is not raining, meet in the parking lot just over the bridge at Pescadero State Beach. Wear clothing in layers for cold and windy to sunny weather. Heavy rain cancels.

Contact: Ranger Dave Augustine (650) 879-2170 or email nolema@coastside.net http://www.greenfoothills.org/news/2001/08-2001_PescaderoButano.html

Directions: Go south from Half Moon Bay on Hwy 1, about 12 miles. Just past the bridge over Pescadero Creek, look for the south parking lot. If you get to the intersection of Pescadero Road and Hwy 1 you have gone too far.

Beginner/Family Nature Hike

Pillar Point – Coastside Birding

Saturday, February 7, 9:00 AM – Noon

This is the only sheltered harbor between Santa Cruz and San Francisco, so Pillar Point is a prime birding area. This area is a stopover point for shorebirds and a favorite for seabirds. Not only does the harbor usually have one or two surprises, but the nearby willows, cypress, and grassland have proven to be first-rate areas for warblers and sparrows.

Directions: Take Hwy 92 to Hwy 1. Follow Hwy 1 north to Capistrano Rd. and turn left at the lights. Turn left at the first opportunity and we will meet in the parking lot at the east end of the harbor near the boat launch ramp. This will be a morning walking trip along the beach and rocky areas, so boots and sturdy shoes are recommended. Wear clothing in layers for cold and windy to sunny weather. Heavy rain cancels.

Leader: Gary Deghi (650) 726-1340

Beginner/Advanced Birding

Bean Hollow State Beach and Lake Lucerne

Sunday, February 8, 8:00 AM – Noon

Meet at the main Bean Hollow Parking Lot (the more southerly one) at 8:00 AM. We will hike north along the coastal trail to the Pebble Beach portion, searching for rocky shorebirds and scanning for ocean birds. We will then walk back and go over to the adjacent Lake Lucerne, looking for waterfowl and passerines. It's a half-day trip, done around noon, probably 1.5 miles total hiking with little or no elevation gain. If there are noted rarities at Pescadero, there'll be an independent trip there afterwards. Restrooms are at both Bean Hollow and Pebble Beach. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: From the intersection of Hwy 92 and Hwy 1, drive south on Hwy 1 about 19 miles.

Leader: Jennifer Rycenga {gyrrlfalcon@earthlink.net} for more information. No fee at Bean Hollow State Park http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=527 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bean_Hollow_State_Beach

Hayward Shoreline Friday Walk

Friday, February 13, 9:30 AM – Noon

We will visit the other side of the bay, the Hayward Shoreline. We will be on the lookout for winter visitors. This area is home to a variety of ducks, shorebirds, egrets, raptors, and songbirds. This walk will be on easy, level trails. Dress in layers; bring binoculars, fluids, and a scope if you have one. Rain cancels.

Directions: Cross the Bay on Hwy 92, San Mateo Bridge. Take the first off ramp Clawiter/Eden Landing. Turn left at the stop sign and another left at the first light. Make a third left at the gas station onto Breakwater. Follow Breakwater Ave to the end. We will meet at the Shoreline Interpretive Center at 9:30 sharp and bird until around noon.

Leaders: Marilyn Nasatir (510) 845-1029 & Inge Svoboda (510) 548-4308 <http://www.abag.org/bayarea/baytrail/vtour/map4/access/BTHayward/BTHayward.htm>

<http://www.haywardrec.org/hayshore.html>

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Field Trips

(Continued from page 1)

April

Saturday, 4th Five Brooks
Sunday, 5th Pescadero Marsh*
Sunday, 19th Pescadero Marsh*

***Beginner/Family Trip**

Check the field trip descriptions for any special information or requirements. Late comers may be disappointed. For all field trips bring your binoculars, water, wear sturdy walking shoes or boots, sun block, a hat, and always dress in layers for hot, sunny weather to cool, windy conditions. While we will attempt to stay on schedule, circumstances may dictate changes to field trip leaders, dates, or times. For the latest schedule and updates always go to the Sequoia Audubon web site; contact the trip leader, or call **Carol at 650-347-1769**.



Black-crowned Night Heron
 at Redwood Shores
 Photo by Jake Hill

(Field Trips, continued from page 3)

http://www.ebparks.org/files/EBRPD_files/brochure/hayward_text.pdf

Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walk

Sunday, February 15, 1:00 PM– 3:00 PM

**** (Repeated on the third Sunday of every month: March 15th, April 19th, May 17th, etc.) ****

See February 1 morning walk listing for details.

Contact: Ranger Dave Augustine (650) 879-2170 or email nolema@coastside.net. http://www.greenfoothills.org/news/2001/08-2001_PescaderoButano.html

Directions: Go south from Half Moon Bay on Hwy 1, about 12 miles. Just past the bridge over Pescadero Creek, look for the south parking lot. If you get to the intersection of Pescadero Road and Hwy 1 you have gone too far.

Beginner/Family Nature Hike

Gulls and Landfills – San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory Walk

Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center (EEC), Alviso

Saturday, February 21, 9:00 AM – Noon

Join Bird Observatory staff Michael Mammoser and Stephanie Ellis in search of White-winged, Glaucous, and Thayer's gulls and other winter oddities. Take this opportunity to learn how the Bird Observatory is tracking gull populations at local landfills and how this research plays a crucial role in future wetland restoration efforts. We will also touch upon the biology and behavior of our common gull species. We will meet at the Education Center at 9:00 AM. Please bring a scope if you have one and dress warmly!

Reservations Required

Contact: <http://www.sfbbo.org/contact/index.php> or call (408) 946-6548 for reservations and directions.

Edgewood Park Walk

Sunday, February 22, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Winter birding at Edgewood Park is great. Come and visit this unique habitat with oak woodland, grasslands and chaparral. We will look for Kites, Hawks, Sparrows, Warblers, Thrushes, Kinglets and more. Ask the leader about The Sequoia Audubon Bird Conservation Program at Edgewood Park and how you can get involved. Starting at 8 AM increases the chance of seeing all the interesting birds at Edgewood. The walk is over moderately strenuous terrain. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Meet the leader in the parking lot adjacent to the Day Camp area. The Edgewood Park entrance is east of Hwy 280 on Edgewood Road in Redwood City.

Leader: Marilyn Travis. (650) 592-7733

Charleston Slough/Coast Casey Forebay, Shoreline Lake – Mountain View

Saturday, February 28, 8:00 AM

Visit one of the best known birding spots along the Bay. Habitats include mudflats, ponds, lagoons, coastal scrub, and salt and fresh water marsh. We should see a nice variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, and some passerines. Dress in layers; bring fluids. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Take 101 south to the North San Antonio Road exit in Mt. View. Go toward the Bay on San Antonio North. Park in the

large oval lot at the end of the road near the first gate.

Leader: Roy Carlson rbcarlson1@aol.com

Beginner/Family Trip

Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walk

Sunday, March 1, 10:00 AM – Noon

For details, please see February 1 listing.

San Gregorio and Pomponio State Beaches

Saturday, March 7, 8:00 AM

Meet at the San Gregorio State Beach parking lot, corner of SR 1 and SR 84, at 8:00 am, for a half-day trip around the many habitats of these two adjoining state beach parks.

Expect gulls, rocky shorebirds, passerines, waterfowl, sea birds, and perhaps some surprises. Heavy rain cancels.

Boots recommended in any event. If there are noted rarities at Pescadero, there'll be an independent trip there afterwards. There are restrooms at both San Gregorio and Pomponio. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: From the intersection of Hwy 1 and Hwy 92, drive south on Hwy 1 about 12 miles. You will see the La Honda/San Gregorio Road (CA 84) intersection on the left and the state beach parking lot on the right side of Hwy 1. Regular State Park fee applies.

Leader: Jennifer Rycenga jgyrrlfalcon@earthlink.net for more information. <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/visitor/access/sanGreg.html>

<http://baynature.org/articles/oct-dec-2008/san-gregorio-state-beach> PRBO Monthly Bird Walk

Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walk

Sunday, March 15, 1:00 PM– 3:00 PM

For details, please see February 15 listing.

San Bruno Mountain

Sunday, March 22, 8:00 AM

San Bruno Mountain stands as an island of open space on the border of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties. It is home to a wealth of wildlife, hidden pockets of woodland and sheltered canyons. We will look for quail, nuthatches, towhees, vireos, warblers, mockingbirds, thrushes, flycatchers, sparrows, wrens, hummingbirds, and many other migrants. Depending on the winter rains we may see spectacular wildflower displays.

Directions: Take Highway 101 north. Take the Bayshore Boulevard/Brisbane exit. Proceed on Bayshore Boulevard to Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Turn west on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway toward the Mountain and proceed up the hill to the Park entrance on your right. Park fee is \$5. Meet in the main parking lot just beyond the entrance kiosk. Dress in layers for warm to cool and windy weather. Wear sturdy walking shoes/boots and bring fluids and snacks. We have binoculars to share. Not suitable for strollers. Heavy rain cancels.

Leaders: Jeff Fairclough and Laurie Graham (650) 589-2133, fair80@comcast.net

Beginner/Family Trip

(Continued on page 5)

(Field Trips, continued from page 4)

The SamTrans Marsh

Saturday, March 28, 8:00 AM

Just north of SFO is the San Bruno Marsh complex. Hidden between industrial buildings, this is a thriving marsh community with mudflats, brackish channels, tidal marshes, pickleweed, and some great birding. This area is home to Clapper Rails. We will be looking for wintering ducks, waterbirds, and visiting land passerines. Dress in layers; bring fluids. Restrooms are rare for the area. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Take the North Access Road exit from Hwy 101 (just north of the San Francisco Airport.) Go east on North Access Road to the intersection of Sam Trans Road and go left. Meet the group in the Safe Harbor parking lot on the left.

Leader: Robbie Fischer (650) 359-2068, robbie22@pacbell.net

Edgewood Park – Spring Walk

Sunday, March 29, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Come and visit this unique habitat with oak woodland, grasslands, and chaparral. Spring is the best time for this beautiful San Mateo County Park. Sparrows, meadowlarks, flycatchers, bluebirds, hawks, and more are all possible. Depending on the winter rains we will look for spring wildflowers, ferns, and fungi. Ask Marilyn about how you can volunteer to help the wildlife at Edgewood Park. The walk is over moderately strenuous terrain. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Meet the leader in the paved parking lot at the main gate. The Edgewood Park entrance is east of Hwy 280 on Edgewood Road in Redwood City.

Leader: Marilyn Travis (650) 592-7733
http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smc/departments/home/0,,5556687_12305995_12328420,00.html

Wood Ducks and Woodpeckers at Five Brooks Point Reyes PRBO Monthly Bird Walk

Saturday, April 4, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

PRBO biologists share their expertise on Spotted Owls as we search for Wood Ducks, woodpeckers, and spring's first migrants. Dress in layers and bring fluids and snacks. Meet at Five Brooks parking lot, about 10 minutes south of Olema on Hwy 1. Walks are **free to PRBO members** and cost **\$10 per person for non-members**. For more information regarding walks, times, or directions, please contact Missy Wipf at (707) 781-2555, ext 302 or mwipf@prbo.org. Please let us know if you are bringing a group of 5 or more. You can become a member of PRBO at the bird walk (individuals \$40; family \$55). Please visit the PRBO website at www.prbo.org/birding for more information on this walk and others that take place throughout the year. <http://www.nps.gov/pore/>
<http://www.pointreyes.org/>

Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walk

Sunday, April 5, 10:00 AM – Noon

For details, please see February 1 listing.

Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walk

Sunday, April 19, 1:00 PM– 3:00 PM

For details, please see February 15 listing.

OTHER BIRDING ACTIVITIES

13th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo

Friday – Sunday, February 6 – 8

Wildlife and birding experiences, exhibits, outings and more!
www.sfbayflywayfestival.com

12th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon

Friday – Monday, February 13 – 16

This free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. The Great Backyard Bird Count benefits both birds and people. It's a great example of citizen science: Anyone who can identify even a few species can contribute to the body of knowledge that is used to inform conservation efforts to protect birds and biodiversity," said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. "Families, teachers, children and all those who take part in GBBC get a chance to improve their observation skills, enjoy nature, and have a great time counting for fun, counting for the future." Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. Participants can also explore what birds others are finding in their backyards — whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to help identify birds, a [photo gallery](#), and special materials for educators.

www.birdsource.org/gbbc

Santa Cruz Migration Festival, Santa Cruz Seacliff, New Brighton, Henry Cowell Redwoods, and Natural Bridges State Parks

Saturday, February 14

Santa Cruz State Parks celebrates the migration of our region's diverse wildlife with events, educational booths, speakers, and activities for kids of all ages. The theme for this event is "State Parks are making way for wildlife," featuring how parks provide a safe path and essential habitat for animals in migration. Part of the fun is that visitors can "migrate" from park to park for special activities at Seacliff State Beach, New Brighton State Beach, Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, and Natural Bridges State Park. This event includes indoor activities for winter and happens rain or shine.

Steelhead trout and newts are among the creatures featured at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. Seacliff State Beach Visitor Center will highlight birds and bats. Migrate down the coast to New Brighton State Beach to the Pacific Migrations Visitor Center to explore migrations by animals, including people, by land and by sea. Natural Bridges will have talks every hour, active kids' games, crafts, a skit, and music by the nature loving

(Continued on page 6)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES 2009

Hospitality at Our Monthly Meetings

Help to greet visitors and new members and assist with refreshments at our monthly general meetings. We meet on the second Thursday evening of every month September through June. Approximately three hours a month: 6:00 – 9:00 PM at the San Mateo Garden Center

Contact: Eileen Kay 650-592-4626

Volunteer for State Park at Half Moon Bay and Pescadero Marsh

State Park rangers are seeking volunteers to work at the Half Moon Bay Visitor Center, lead walks at the Pescadero Marsh, and lead programs for school student field trips. Some of the activities require more walking than others, but there is something for everyone! If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities please sign up for the volunteer training that will begin Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. (But you can join the group after the first session as training will continue periodically on Tuesday evenings until April.) There will be a few field trip sessions scheduled for Saturdays or Sundays. Training is free but we do ask that you contribute four to eight hours of volunteer time per month once you complete the training.

To register for training or if you have questions contact Ranger Nelle Lyons at hmbplovers@hotmail.com or (650)726-8804.

Educational Interpretive Center at the New Redwood Shores Library

Books and birds -- what could be better? A spectacular new public library was opened on September 6, 2008. The library, located near Belmont Slough and the Bay Trail, will include a hands-on interpretive center highlighting life in the sloughs, wetlands, and bay. Sequoia Audubon has been asked to assist with interpretive help in the library, field trips, and educational programs for children and adults. This is a unique opportunity to work with the community to help introduce nature, conservation, and birding to a new generation. For more information about how you can get involved contact Sonny Mencher: sequoiaaudubon@yahoo.com

Friends of Bayfront Park, Menlo Park

Bayfront Park will have a new name in 2009. Menlo Park City Council voted on September 2, 2008 to rename the park Bedwell Bayfront Park, in honor of Mike Bedwell. He was, for 27 years, the city manager, and died in 2008. Especially appropriate is that he guided the city for years and ensured that Bayfront Park did indeed become a park after the end of the landfill era. A storyboard will be installed to explain Mike Bedwell's role and give other information about the park.

Meanwhile, Friends of Bayfront Park has resumed monthly "bird mornings" at the park, from 9-11 am on the second Saturday of each month. Besides the usual bird books and the park list, we bring Kaufmann's "Las Aves de Norteamerica" as many park visitors are not primary English speakers. If you have friends who live nearby and who aren't "real birders" but who'd like to see birds through a scope or learn a little more about them, please invite them to drop by. Families welcome, too. Meet along the entrance road by the tidal pond. **Volunteers invited to help from January forward – contact Chris MacIntosh: cmaci@sbcglobal.net, 650-325-7841.**

Come and bird our hilly corner of the bay and see what you can find!

(Other Birding Activities, continued from page 5)

5M's Band. Visit one park or migrate among all four. A day-use parking pass, good at all state parks for the day, is \$8 for the full day.

www.santacruzstateparks.org/

California Duck Days, Davis

Friday & Saturday, February 20 & 21

A gala reception for everyone interested in wetlands and wildlife will launch the festivities on Friday evening, February 20th at the Davis Arts Center from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. On Saturday, the festival will feature one full day of field trips and workshops at the Yolo Wildlife Area Headquarters facility in South Davis. The cost for the CA Duck Days is \$20 per person, and children under 16 are free when accompanied by an adult.

www.yolobasin.org/events.cfm#Event **GaggleofGatherings**

11th Annual Aleutian Goose Festival, Crescent City

Thursday – Monday, March 26 – 30

"A Celebration of Wildness" offers birding and nature tours as well as Tolowa and Yurok Indian cultural experiences.

www.aleutiangoosefestival.org

(Continued on page 7)

SAS PROGRAM UPDATES

Crystal Springs Christmas Bird Count - December 20, 2008

By Leslie Flint, CBC Coordinator

This year's CBC brought cold but sunny weather -- the one beautiful day in a week of rain. One hundred participants counted this year -- the highest number ever! However the number of species seen, partly we assume due to the nice weather, was 181 (this is a preliminary number as of the compilation dinner). The average number of species seen for this count over the previous 10 years is 189, with the highest at 202 in 2006 and the lowest at 177 in 2002. Highlights of the day were:

Tropical Kingbird - Half Moon Bay
Harlequin Duck - Coyote Point
Long-tailed Duck - Redwood Shores
American White Pelican
Bald Eagle (watershed)
Lesser Yellowlegs - San Carlos Airport
Wild Turkey- Filoli
Pileated Woodpecker
Burrowing Owl - Bair Island

A Black-headed Grosbeak was reported from a Belmont yard on the day after the count.

A huge thank you to all who participated and contributed to this count!



Photo by Sue Cossins

Crystal Springs CBC Compilation Dinner, 12/2008

(Other Birding Activities, continued from page 6)

14th Annual Godwit Days, Arcata

California's North Coast Spring Bird Migration Festival

Thursday – Wednesday, April 16 – 22

Held at the peak of spring migration, shorebirds abound and special opportunities are planned to see many other species, including Marbled Murrelet, Spotted Owl, and Snowy Plover. The area offers a wide array of habitats and species for your observation and enjoyment. Our selection of nearly 100 small group field trips, lectures, workshops, boating excursions, and community activities are led by experienced local guides. Special pre- and post-festival birding trips are available that can extend your enjoyment to a full week.

www.godwitdays.com

SAS appreciates your tax-deductible donations which help fund the Chapter's education, conservation and ongoing activities

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CA 94062-0292

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**Robin Smith, SAS member since 1987
Awarded "Volunteer for Outstanding Service" from
Audubon California**

Our own Robin Smith is one of six statewide chapter recipients who will be receiving this prestigious award at the upcoming Audubon California Assembly in Asilomar, CA, in March 2009.

Robin was nominated by several SAS members for her years of service to our chapter. Among her many accomplishments are serving several terms on the Board of Directors, including two as President; field trip leader; work on the San Mateo County breeding bird surveys; manning a bluebird trail; leading teams on Christmas Bird Counts; and serving on the Conservation Committee since 1999 as a strong voice for birds and habitat conservation.

Congratulations to Robin and many thanks to her for all her contributions to our chapter activities.

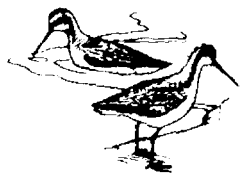


Photo by Sue Cossins

Robin Smith

THE BIRD BOX
RARE BIRD
ALERT

415-681-7422



Wilson's Phalarope

**Mission
Statement**

The mission of Sequoia Audubon Society is to participate in environmental education, and conservation and in the restoration, preservation, protection and enjoyment of our native natural resources with emphasis on birds and their habitats .